



18th Battalion Association

Windsor and Detroit Branch

MEMORIES

In the mid-thirties, Bobby Watson and I were strolling along Ouellette Avenue when we noticed a small crowd gathered in front of the vacant lot just south of the Tunnel entrance. Bobby was in the First Battalion. When we arrived, we found they were watching some workmen erecting a large outdoor sign for the Marley Company.

Most of the carpentry work was completed and the three painters were already on the platform. The one painter was painting a rather wide Blue and Yellow border, while the other two were working on the inner part of the picture. The one on the left was painting the face of a ruddy-cheek baby who was holding a bottle of milk. It was likely Purity as Purity Dairies had leased the sign board. We watched him for some time and when he came down to replenish his supplies, I immediately recognized him as a former member of the Eighteenth from our days at Queens Park although I didn't know him.

I remembered, however, that he was the young man who had done the tattooing on the S.S. Grampian while we were going overseas. I assume there are some former members of the Battalion left with the 18th badge tattooed on their forearm or shoulder as he seemed to be doing a thriving business.

When we arrived in France, he was the one in charge of the Battalion's little white crosses. When one of our men was killed in action, he would neatly print his Regimental No., Rank and Name on one of the crosses, most of which were erected in the little cemetery at Ridgewood. I always thought that the Eighteenth Battalion crosses were whiter, neater, and more numerous than those of the other Battalions which were in the Fourth Brigade.

Several years later, I mentioned this incident to Jim Handyside and he knew exactly who I was talking about. Jim stated that the young man's name was George (Scottie) Dixon and he believed he was in our "A" Company.

Mr. Dixon could still be with us as he was quite young when he was with the Battalion. In fact, he could still be painting outdoor signs. He was awfully good at it.